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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 March 2018

37/21. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also all previous resolutions on human rights and unilateral coercive measures adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolutions 34/13 of 24 March 2017 and 36/10 of 28 September 2017 and General Assembly resolution 72/168 of 19 December 2017,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which all States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries,

Taking note of the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the biennial Human Rights Council panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights,[1]

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and in this regard reaffirming the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of all human rights,

Expressing its grave concern at the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, the right to development, international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Reaffirming that no State may use or encourage the use of any type of measure, including but not limited to economic or political measures, to coerce another State in order

[1] A/HRC/37/31.

to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind,

Reaffirming also, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recognizing that unilateral coercive measures in the form of economic sanctions have far-reaching implications for the human rights of the general population of targeted States, disproportionately affecting the poor and the most vulnerable classes,

Alarmed by the fact that most current unilateral coercive measures have been imposed, at great cost in terms of the human rights of the poorest and of persons in vulnerable situations, on developing countries by developed countries,

Underlining that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their basic means of survival,

Recognizing that long-term unilateral coercive measures may result in social problems and raise humanitarian concerns in the States targeted,

Highlighting the deep-rooted problems and grievances within the international system and the importance for the United Nations to give a voice to all members of the international community in order to ensure multilateralism, mutual respect and the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Expressing its grave concern that the laws and regulations imposing unilateral coercive measures have, in some instances, an extraterritorial effect not only on targeted countries but also on third countries, in contravention of the basic principles of international law, in a manner that will coerce the latter also to apply the unilateral coercive measures,

Welcoming the final document and declaration adopted at the seventeenth summit of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held on Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 17 and 18 September 2016, in which the Movement reaffirmed, among other things, its principled position of condemnation of the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against countries of the Movement, which are in violation of the Charter and international law and undermine, among other things, the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, self-determination and non-interference,

Reaffirming that each State has full sovereignty over the totality of its wealth, natural resources and economic activity, exercising it freely, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, called upon States to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that created obstacles to trade relations among States and impeded the full realization of all human rights, and that also severely threatened freedom of trade,

Deeply concerned that, despite the resolutions adopted on this issue by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and at United Nations conferences held in the 1990s and at their five-year reviews, and contrary to norms of international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated, implemented and enforced by, inter alia, resorting to war and militarism, with all their negative implications for the social-humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Deeply disturbed by the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the right to life, the rights to health and medical care, the right to freedom from hunger and the right to an adequate standard of living, food, education, work and housing,

Alarmed by the disproportionate and indiscriminate human costs of unilateral sanctions and their negative effects on the civilian population, in particular women and children, of targeted States,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, which establishes that States have the duty to cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development,

Reaffirming also that unilateral coercive measures are major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Concerned that unilateral coercive measures have prevented humanitarian organizations from making financial transfers to States where they work,

Underlining that, in each situation worldwide, unilateral coercive measures have a negative impact on human rights,

Underlining also the necessity of examining the wide range of impact of unilateral coercive measures on international humanitarian and human rights law, and on the economy, peace, security and social fabric of States,

Highlighting the need to monitor human rights violations associated with unilateral coercive measures and to promote accountability,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, on the institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling also article 1 (2) common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which provides that, inter alia, in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

1. *Calls upon* all States to stop adopting, maintaining or implementing unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature with extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Urges* all States to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures, also urges the removal of such measures, as they are contrary to the Charter and norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States at all levels, and recalls that such measures prevent the full realization of economic and social development of nations while also affecting the full realization of human rights;

3. *Urges* States to resolve their differences through dialogue and peaceful relations, and to avoid the use of economic, political or other measures to coerce another State with regard to the exercise of its sovereign rights;

4. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and in this context calls upon all Member States neither to recognize these measures nor to apply them, and to take effective administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

5. *Condemns* the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain powers of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure against any country, particularly against developing countries, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems;

6. *Expresses its grave concern* that any unilateral coercive measure imposed necessarily runs counter to some provisions of the International Bill of Human Rights or peremptory norms and other provisions of customary law, and entails adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights by innocent people;

7. *Also expresses its grave concern* that, in some countries, the socioeconomic conditions of family members, particularly women and children, are adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures, imposed and maintained contrary to international law and the Charter, that create obstacles to trade relations among States, restrict movement through various means of transport, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

8. *Reiterates* its call upon Member States that have initiated such measures to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from relevant provisions of the international law and human rights instruments to which they are a party by putting an immediate end to such measures;

9. *Reaffirms* in this context the right of all peoples to self-determination by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their own economic, social and cultural development;

10. *Also reaffirms*, as enshrined in the Charter, its opposition to any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State;

11. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and to the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measure to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

12. *Reaffirms* that essential goods, such as food and medicines, should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

13. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and in this regard calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries;

14. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, and the increasing trend in this direction, including through the enactment of laws with extraterritorial application;

15. *Recognizes* that the Declaration of Principles adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003, strongly urges States to avoid and refrain from any unilateral measure in building the information society;

16. *Stresses* the need for an independent mechanism of the United Nations human rights machinery for the victims of unilateral coercive measure to address the issues of remedies and redress, with a view to promoting accountability and reparations;

17. *Urges* all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures and to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in fulfilling his mandate;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of the quantitative and qualitative documentation of the negative impact associated with the application of unilateral coercive measures in the context of ensuring the accountability of those responsible for human rights violations resulting from the application of unilateral coercive measures against any State;

19. *Acknowledges* the need to ensure that all relevant United Nations human rights treaty bodies and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council mainstream the issue of the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and perform specific activities, such as during the review of periodic reports submitted by States to such bodies and under the universal periodic review;

20. *Decides* to give due consideration to the issue of the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

21. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;[2]

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to identify and propose concrete measures to ensure the removal of unilateral coercive measures affecting the enjoyment of human rights of victims, and to focus on the resources and compensation necessary to promote accountability and reparations for victims in his next reports to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly;

23. *Also requests* the Special Rapporteur, taking into account the views of Member States, to identify a set of elements to be considered, as appropriate, in the preparation of a draft United Nations declaration on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and to submit those elements to the Human Rights Council in his next report;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner in addressing the challenges arising from unilateral coercive measures and their negative impact on the human rights of peoples and individuals who wish to realize their economic and social rights, including the right to development;

25. *Requests* the High Commissioner, in discharging his functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development and bearing in mind the continuing impact of unilateral coercive measures on the population of developing countries, to give priority to the present resolution in his annual report;

26. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his tasks, and to provide all necessary information requested by him;

27. *Urges* the High Commissioner, relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies to pay attention, within the framework of their mandates, to the situation of persons whose rights have been violated as the result of unilateral coercive measures;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the assistance necessary to the Special Rapporteur to fulfil his mandate effectively, in particular by placing adequate human and material resources at his disposal;

29. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the issue of the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights in accordance with its programme of work.

54th meeting
23 March 2018

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 28 to 15, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia,

[2] A/HRC/36/44.

Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Brazil, Mexico]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/37/22

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Human Rights Council
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26 February–23 March 2018
Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 March 2018

37/22. Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and the right of persons with disabilities to access to justice

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto,

Recalling also the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms without discrimination,

Reaffirming all of its previous resolutions on the rights of persons with disabilities, the most recent of which was resolution 31/6 of 23 March 2016 on the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and welcoming the efforts of all stakeholders to implement those resolutions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/162 of 19 December 2017 on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situation of women and girls with disabilities,

Reaffirming that discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling in particular that article 5 of the Convention reaffirms that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law, and provides that States shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability, guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds and, in order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided,

Recalling in that regard that specific measures that are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality of persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination,

Mindful that any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability that has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political,

economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability, which includes the denial of reasonable accommodation,

Recognizing that participation, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment are fundamental principles of a human rights-based approach to disability, and noting article 3 of the Convention in that regard,

Mindful of the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the general principles reflected in the Convention, namely, non-discrimination, full and effective participation and inclusion in society, respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, equality between men and women, and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities,

Emphasizing that the enjoyment of equality and non-discrimination and the right to effective access to justice on an equal basis with others are closely linked to the enjoyment of the full range of human rights by persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that progress has been made, yet deeply concerned that many persons with disabilities in all regions continue to face significant obstacles in achieving equality and non-discrimination, and effective access to justice on an equal basis with others,

Emphasizing that taking all appropriate steps to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation is essential to promoting equality and eliminating discrimination,

Deeply concerned that girls and women of all ages with disabilities are subject to multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination that affect their enjoyment of their human rights, including their ability to have access to justice on an equal basis with others, and that those forms of discrimination stem from harmful stigma and stereotypes based on gender and disability, and bearing in mind the risk of segregation, violence and abuse, including sexual violence and abuse, against women and girls with disabilities, including that occurring in the home, in families, in institutions and carried out by support providers,

Deeply concerned also at the negative impact of those laws and practices on the rights of persons with disabilities that provide inadequate support to such persons to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, which has a negative impact on the enjoyment of equality and non-discrimination and in some cases that deny their right to effective access to justice on an equal basis with others or allow for their forced institutionalization on the basis of a real or perceived disability,

Emphasizing that access to procedural and age-appropriate accommodations is essential to facilitating the effective role of persons with disabilities as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at the investigative and other preliminary stages, and highlighting the key role of States in promoting appropriate training for those working in the field of administration of justice, including police and prison staff, in order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, as recognized in article 13 of the Convention,

Noting the cross-cutting nature of equality and non-discrimination in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has an impact on all the Sustainable Development Goals, noting in particular Goal 10 and the specific reference in target 16.3 to ensuring equal access to justice for all and in target 17.18, to increasing significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, inter alia, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, as a means to measure the advancement under the 2030 Agenda and to ensure that no one is left behind,

Noting also that, in 2019, the high-level political forum on sustainable development will review Goals 10 and 16 under the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality",

Welcoming the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and taking note with appreciation of her reports,[1]

Welcoming also the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and taking note with appreciation of its general comments,

Welcoming further the work undertaken by the task force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that, to date, 176 States and one regional integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has 160 signatories, and that 92 States have signed and 92 States have ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and calls upon those States and regional integration organizations that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention and the Optional Protocol to consider doing so as a matter of priority;

2. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Convention and have submitted one or more reservations to it to initiate a process to review regularly the effect and continued relevance of such reservations and to consider the possibility of withdrawing them;

3. *Welcomes* the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the thematic studies on the right of persons with disabilities to equality and non-discrimination,[2] and the right to access to justice on an equal basis with others,[3] and calls upon all stakeholders to consider the findings and recommendations in those studies with a view to their implementation, where appropriate;

4. *Calls upon* States to take effective and appropriate measures to remove all barriers preventing persons with disabilities from having effective access to justice on an equal basis with others, and to ensure the full enjoyment of equality and non-discrimination by persons with disabilities in the fields of equality and non-discrimination and access to justice, such as by:

(a) Guaranteeing equal recognition before the law of persons with disabilities and ensuring that they have the opportunity to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life, as recognized in article 12 of the Convention;

(b) Adopting laws and policies to address and reduce inequalities, including by facilitating accessibility, working actively to change negative perceptions and attitudes and pro . iding for inclusive environments;

(c) Taking specific measures to combat discrimination, particularly structural discrimination, and providing effective monitoring tools and remedies to improve the enforcement of these specific measures;

(d) Taking measures to ensure protection against all kinds of discrimination, including by integrating the Convention into national law, where appropriate, providing tools and guidelines to apply its provisions and innovative aspects, empowering persons with disabilities with regard to their rights, building the capacity of public officials, including judges and monitoring agents, and ensuring effective remedies and proper redress and reparation to victims of discrimination;

(e) Taking all appropriate measures to eliminate all situations of gender-based discrimination against women and girls with disabilities of all ages, who face an increased vulnerability to violence, abuse, discrimination and negative stereotyping;

(f) Improving or adopting legal and regulatory frameworks that identify those responsible for providing accommodation in all areas of the law, providing guidelines and protocols for their implementation, assuring flexibility in their policies and budgets to accommodate specific requests, and laying out appropriate procedures and criteria to objectively assess when a requested accommodation imposes a disproportionate or undue burden, ensuring a case-by-case approach;

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[1] A/HRC/37/56 and Adds. 1-2.

[2] A/HRC/34/26.

[3] A/HRC/37/25.

(g) Ensuring that the principles of equality and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities are integrated across the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(h) Amending civil, criminal and procedural laws that prevent persons with disabilities from directly or indirectly participating in judicial or administrative processes on an equal basis with others, including those measures that grant third-party representation in law or in fact without free and informed consent or by denying legal standing;

(i) Implementing laws and policies that ensure that information needed to defend rights is accessible to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others and that free and affordable legal aid is provided to persons with disabilities as appropriate, in all areas of law;

(j) Repealing or revising laws that have the effect of denying the right to a fair trial to any person with disabilities, adopting laws to prohibit practices that act as a barrier to justice for persons with disabilities, and enacting and implementing anti-discrimination measures, including providing procedural accommodations when necessary in all legal proceedings;

(k) Reforming legislation that has the effect of depriving persons with disabilities of legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including legislation affecting the right to a fair trial, including the presumption of innocence, the right to be tried in person and defend oneself in person or through legal counsel of one's choosing, the right to examine witnesses for the prosecution and to obtain evidence and examine witnesses on one's behalf, and the right not to be compelled to testify or confess guilt, among other procedural safeguards and fair trial guarantees;

(l) Providing an effective remedy for violations of human rights, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of the person with disability, addressing systemic change, including acknowledgement of the facts and acceptance of responsibility as a component of satisfaction, and providing guidance for legal and policy reform and capacity-building as guarantees of non-repetition;

(m) Enabling persons with disabilities in their role as witnesses, jurors, experts, judges, lawyers or other interlocutors within the justice system to exercise their right to participate in public and political life on an equal basis with others;

(n) Providing training to judicial officers, lawyers and others, including forensic experts, prison staff and the police, on the human rights of persons with disabilities in order to overcome barriers in their effective access to justice, on an equal basis with others;

5. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and to promote gender equality in order to ensure the equal enjoyment of their rights, in particular to equality and non-discrimination and access to justice on an equal basis with others;

6. *Also urges* States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender and/or impairment by any person, organization or private enterprise, ensuring access to justice and accountability mechanisms and remedies for the effective implementation and enforcement of laws aimed at preventing and eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls with disabilities;

7. *Encourages* States to engage in international cooperation efforts at all levels aimed at enhancing their national capacities to guarantee fully the right of persons with disabilities to equality and non-discrimination and access to justice on an equal basis with others, encourages the mobilization of public and private resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in development, and invites the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant United Nations agencies to consider ways to foster international cooperation activities in that regard;

8. *Also encourages* States to integrate in their reports to the high-level political forum on sustainable development advances made with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities as reflected in laws, policies and practices developed relevant to the commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to develop human rights indicators and collect data disaggregated by age, sex and disability to inform those

indicators using the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions for disaggregation;

9. *Calls upon* States to ensure that all international cooperation is inclusive of persons with disabilities and does not contribute to creating new barriers for them;

10. *Also calls upon* States to consider becoming party to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;

11. *Decides* that its next annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities will be held at its fortieth session and that it will focus on article 26 of the Convention, on habilitation and rehabilitation, and will have international sign interpretation and captioning;

12. *Also decides* that an interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities will be held at its forty-third session, and that the debate will focus on article 8 of the Convention, on awareness-raising, and will have international sign interpretation and captioning;

13. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare its next annual thematic study on the rights of persons with disabilities on article 26 of the Convention, and to prepare its subsequent study on article 8 of the Convention, in consultation with States and other relevant stakeholders, regional organizations, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, and national human rights institutions, requiring contributions to be submitted in an accessible format, and requests that such stakeholder contributions, the studies themselves and an easy-to-read-version of them, be made available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner, in an accessible format, prior to the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council;

14. *Encourages* the task force on secretariat services and accessibility for persons with disabilities to report orally to the Human Rights Council on its work and on the progress made on the implementation of its accessibility plan;

15. *Urges* States to consider further integrating and mainstreaming the perspective and rights of persons with disabilities into the work of the Human Rights Council;

16. *Encourages* representative organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society, national mechanisms as described in article 33 of the Convention, and national human rights institutions to participate actively in the debates referred to in paragraphs 11 and 12 above and in regular and special sessions of the Council and its working groups;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and United Nations offices to continue the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention, and underlines that the Human Rights Council, including its Internet resources, should be fully accessible to persons with disabilities;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the work of the Office of the High Commissioner with respect to the rights of persons with disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are adequately resourced for the fulfilment of their tasks;

19. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

54th meeting
23 March 2018

[Adopted without a vote.]